



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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File #: 21-2590, Version: 1

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### PROPOSED RESOLUTION

#### HONORING CLUB LUCKY AS IT CELEBRATES 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS

**WHEREAS**, Club Lucky, an Italian restaurant located at 1824 W. Wabansia on the northeast corner of Wabansia and Honore streets, is nestled into Chicago's Bucktown neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, Club Lucky was one of the early Bucktown pioneers. In 1990, co-owners Jim Higgins and Robert Paladino purchased a Polish corner neighborhood bar and the adjacent, abandoned community center and transformed it into Club Lucky over the span of a year; and

**WHEREAS**, like all the best places in Chicago, Club Lucky has a history. It served as a speakeasy during prohibition, with a hardware storefront and gin martinis as the signature drink; and

**WHEREAS**, Club Lucky was also once the site of a local dance hall, and its dining room décor transports you to a 1940's supper club; and

**WHEREAS**, the co-owners compare their neighborhood fixture to "sitting at grandmother's table having a hearty meal," while the *Chicago Sun-Times* said, "It's a restaurant that fits like a comfortable pair of shoes"; and

**WHEREAS**, the menu at Club Lucky offers traditional Italian favorites but is Southern-Italian influenced as Higgins is part Sicilian. The marinara sauce is good enough to sell by the jar; and

**WHEREAS**, Club Lucky was praised on "Check, Please," with shout outs given to the homemade eight-finger cavatelli, the various calamari preparations, the chicken vesuvio, the stuffed artichokes, and the tiramisu-to name a few; and

**WHEREAS**, the bar is as beloved as the restaurant, evoking a cool but unpretentious vibe with its polished black Formica-top bar that runs the length of the room, rows of cocktail shakers, a juke box, and Naugahyde banquettes; and

**WHEREAS**, Club Lucky's Killer Martinis are a trademark and predated the martini bar craze by more than a decade; and

**WHEREAS**, in true Chicago fashion, Club Lucky is reportedly the last remaining tavern in the states to serve as a polling place; and

**WHEREAS**, Club Lucky gives back to the community with an Eat and Earn Program that donates cash to non-profits, and it was also an early supporter of Dining Out for Life, an annual event that benefits HIV/AIDS organizations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor Club Lucky for its thirty years in business; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to owners Jim Higgins and Bobby Paladino as a token of our appreciation for their contributions to the Bucktown community and beyond.